

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1270

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Cheekwood Botanical Garden & Museum of Art, on its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those notable sites that showcase the unsurpassed beauty of nature and the fathomless artistic creations of man; and

WHEREAS, such a grand site is Cheekwood Botanical Garden & Museum of Art, where the scenic beauty of its flora and fauna delights its many visitors who travel to see its world class art exhibits, exquisite permanent collections, and the truly majestic mansion itself; and

WHEREAS, originally a monumental country estate designed by American landscape architect Bryant Fleming between 1929 and 1932 for the family of Leslie Cheek, Cheekwood mansion and the surrounding property was gifted as a public institution in 1957 by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sharp; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 1960, Cheekwood opened its doors to the public as the "Tennessee Botanical Garden and Fine Arts Center," having received that same year the collection of over 70 paintings, 200 drawings, and 300 prints from the former Nashville Museum of Art; and

WHEREAS, the first large gift to the Cheekwood permanent collection was donated in 1958 by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Thompson, who gave 350 Chinese snuff bottles; the photography collection began with a large gift of Louise Dahl-Wolfe fashion photographs, donated by the artist; and

WHEREAS, the original Pineapple Room in the Cheekwood mansion opened in August of 1960, and September saw the establishment and formation of the volunteer organization, "Friends of Cheekwood"; and

WHEREAS, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Swan Ball, chaired by Mrs. Guilford Dudley, was held on June 15, 1963, to benefit the facility and quickly became the preeminent event on the social calendar in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, during its first decade of operation, Cheekwood presented *Will Edmondson*, the first major exhibition of Edmondson sculpture since 1937 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York; opened its beloved *Christmas Trees of Many Lands* exhibit, sponsored by the Horticultural Society of Davidson County; and dedicated the Howe Wildflower Garden, brought to Cheekwood by the Garden Club of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the 1970s at Cheekwood saw the construction of the Botanic Hall, including the Jack C. Massey Auditorium; the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual April Plant Sale hosted by the Garden Club of Nashville to benefit the Howe Wildflower Garden; and the construction of the Julia Bainbridge Memorial Camellia Greenhouse, the Central America Cloud Forest, and the Orchid greenhouses; and

WHEREAS, the art collections were enhanced in the 1970s by the donation of a large gift of Sheffield silver by Mr. and Mrs. Russell Speights; the purchase and donations of Andy Warhol's and Jamie Wyeth's portraits of each other; and the major gift donation of Worcester Porcelain by Dr. and Mrs. William E. Ewers, which has grown to span nearly 300 years and is one of the finest and most comprehensive collections of its kind in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the beauty of the grounds of Cheekwood were enhanced in the 1970s by the addition of the Burr Terrace Garden, inspired by an ancient garden in Padua, Italy, and the groundbreaking of the Japanese Garden, *Shomu-en*, meaning pine-mist garden, which would not be completed until 1990; and

WHEREAS, the 1980s saw major renovations to the mansion, the dedication of the Wills Perennial Garden and the Herb Study Garden, a donation of Dogwoods from Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Carell, Jr., and three large gifts of paintings from Mr. and Mrs. Walter Knestrick; and

WHEREAS, 1986 saw Cheekwood receive the largest bequest in its history from Anita Bevill Stallworth; over the next decade, the funds enabled Cheekwood to acquire over 100 works of art for the permanent collection and form the foundation for a capital campaign in the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990s, Cheekwood was the recipient of The John A. & Margaret Hill American Southwest Collection of over 120 paintings, drawings, prints, and sculptures; a large collection of American and English silver by Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin H. Caldwell, Jr.; and the Virginia Peck Daylily collection; and

WHEREAS, the 1<sup>st</sup> annual *Antiques & Garden Show of Nashville* was held in 1991, chaired by Sigourney Cheek and Connie Cigarran, and the 1<sup>st</sup> annual *Spring Art Hop* festival, an expansion of the traditional Egg Hunt to include games, art activities, and more was held in 1994; and

WHEREAS, expanding its outreach, both in art and offerings, Cheekwood initiated the cutting-edge exhibition series, *Temporary Contemporary*, in 1995 and began its popular free family programs: *Saturday AM* studio classes followed by the lively *Backpack Adventure* in the late 1990s; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990s, the landmark *The Future for Cheekwood* Capital Fund Campaign accomplished the creation of the Robertson Ellis Color Garden; the creation of the Carell Woodland Sculpture Trail, including major works by James Turrell, John Scott, and Sophie Ryer; the creation of the Turner Seasons Garden; the addition of the Walter M. Morgan, Jr., Production Greenhouse; the opening of the Frist Learning Center and Courtyard Gallery in the renovated Cheek stables; renovations of the Robinson Family Water Garden, the historic Martin Boxwood Gardens, and the Museum of Art; and a redesign of the Carell Dogwood Garden; and

WHEREAS, completing all renovations and new undertakings, Cheekwood reopened to the public after the successful completion of *The Future for Cheekwood* Capital Fund Campaign on August 29, 1999; and

WHEREAS, named to the National Register of Historic Places in 2000, Cheekwood would build on its tradition of excellence in the decade, publishing a catalogue of its permanent

collection in 2001, launching the *Dave Rogers Big Bugs* annual outdoor summer garden exhibition series, the *Scarecrows!* garden exhibition, and *Tuesdays for Tots* art program, and hosting the annual *El Dia de los Muertos* festival – which quickly became the largest Hispanic celebration in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, accredited by the American Association of Museums in 2002, Cheekwood received a number of major additions to its permanent collection during the decade, including significant works from Elizabeth Bullard Stadler, the American Miniature Portrait Collection from Mr. and Mrs. Raymond White, the American Art Pottery Collection from Dr. and Mrs. Richard Schneider, and the installation of the Siah Armajani *Glass Bridge* on the Carell Woodland Sculpture Trail; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Cheekwood received the Matilda Geddings Grey Foundation Collection of Fabergé on extended loan; with a new catalogue documenting this major collection, Cheekwood launched a rebranding campaign, updating its image with a fresh new logo and visitor-friendly web site; and

WHEREAS, celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010, Cheekwood most appropriately is hosting the groundbreaking exhibition, *Chihuly at Cheekwood*, which is installed both indoors and out, transforming Cheekwood into a wonderland of color, light, and form; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, Cheekwood's beautiful botanical gardens, art collections, and exhibitions have brought sublime pleasure, joyous wonderment, and exhilaration to countless individuals, and it is highly appropriate that this body commemorates such a historic legacy; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Cheekwood Botanical Garden & Museum of Art on its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and applaud its fifty wonderful years of showcasing the beauty of nature and the artistic talents of mankind to generations of visitors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.